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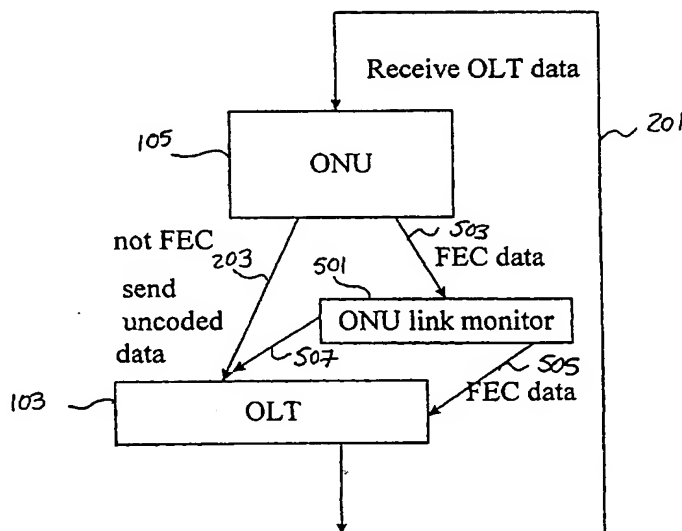
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(54) Title: METHOD OF ETHERNET FRAME FORWARD ERROR CORRECTION INITIALIZATION AND AUTO-NEGOTIATION



(57) Abstract: A method of managing forward error correction (FEC) initialization and auto-negotiation in ethernet passive optical networks includes receiving FEC data from an optical network unit (ONU 105), and the optical line terminal (OLT 103) responds to the ONU with FEC data. Upon receiving data not forward error corrected from an ONU. The OLT responds with data not coded for FEC (203). Similarly, upon receiving forward error corrected data from the OLT, the ONU responds with forward error corrected data (503); and upon receiving data not forward error corrected from the OLT, the ONU responds with data not forward error corrected (203). The communications quality from the ONU is monitored (501), if the communications quality is not sufficient, the OLT transmits forward error corrected data to the ONU; otherwise, the OLT transmits non-FEC data to the ONU.